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said water insoluble polymer in said skin engaging layer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of nylon, ethylene vinyl acetate, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and polyacetal. --

-- 35. The skin engaging member of claim 34 wherein said water insoluble polymer in said non-skin engaging layer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, high impact polystyrene, polypropylene, filled polypropylene and nylon. --

-- 36. The skin engaging member of claim 35 wherein said non-skin engaging layer additionally comprises a water soluble polymer. --

-- 37. The skin engaging member of claim 32 wherein said skin engaging layer comprises an elongated sheath and said non-skin engaging layer comprises a core extending axially throughout said sheath. --

REMARKS

This paper is being filed for the purposes of (1) responding to the restriction requirement in the Examiner's Action mailed September 30, 1998, and (2) correcting certain inadvertent errors in applicant's Preliminary Amendment, dated September 10, 1997.

Response to Examiner's Action

In the Examiner's Action mailed September 30, 1998, the Examiner required that this application be restricted to the invention of claims 1-18 (Group I) or claim 19 (Group II). Applicant hereby elects the invention of claims 1-18 (Group I) for examination. This election is made without traverse.

Applicant hereby respectfully reserves the right to pursue the invention of claim 19 (Group II), as originally claimed, in a divisional application.

Amendment to the Abstract

In reviewing applicant's Preliminary Amendment, dated September 10, 1997, two typographical errors were noted. Both relate to proposed amendments to the Abstract. On page 8 of the Preliminary Amendment, applicant inadvertently referred to line 1 of the Abstract, rather than to line 10. The amendment to the Abstract set forth above correctly refers to line 10. The proposed amendment to line 3 in the Preliminary Amendment should be ignored, as there is no text at line 3. Applicant apologizes for any inconvenience these inadvertent errors may have caused the Examiner.

Additional Claims

Claims 1-19 have been cancelled without prejudice.

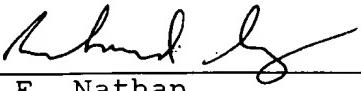
Claims 20-37 have been added.

Claims 20-32 are substantially similar to claims previously submitted and cancelled from applicant's related Application No. 08/461,318 ("the '318 application"). In particular, Claims 27-31 are substantially similar to claims originally presented in Wexler et al. PCT published application WO9604112A1. Applicant previously requested that an interference be declared between applicant's '318 application and Wexler et al.'s U.S. applications corresponding to the PCT application, including Wexler et al. U.S. Application No. 08/285,364. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner revisit the issue of whether any of the Wexler et al. U.S. applications presents any allowable subject matter appropriate for declaration of an interference with this application or the '318 application.

Claims 33-37 are identical to Claims 124-29 previously presented in the '318 application. In order to simplify prosecution of that application, these claims will be cancelled from the '318 application, and are being presented in this application.

An early and favorable action is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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